

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140878  
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, PO, UR, NATO

SUBJECT: ITEM FOR JUNE 7 ECONADS MEETING; SECRETARY  
BERGLAND'S VISITS TO USSR AND POLAND

REFS: (A) NATO 5148, (B) NATO 5357

1. SECRETARY BERGLAND CONCLUDED SEVEN DAY VISIT TO USSR  
MAY 16 VISITING MOSCOW, KIEV, TSELINOGRAD AND LENINGRAD.  
PRINCIPAL MEETINGS WERE WITH PREMIER KOSYGIN, CHAIRMAN OF  
THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER KIRILLIN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MESYATS  
AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV. IN HIS DIS-  
CUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS SECRETARY BERGLAND EMPHASIZED  
A.) U.S. COMMITMENT TO INVESTIGATE FEASIBILITY OF INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND SPECIFICALLY INTEREST IN  
DEVELOPING A WHEAT AGREEMENT, B.) DESIRABILITY OF SOVIET  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 140878

PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUCH INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT,  
C.) DESIRE TO AVOID EXTREMES IN AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND  
THE CREATION OF U.S. GRAIN RESERVES TO ACHIEVE THIS,D.) NEED  
FOR BETTER INFORMATION ON WORLD CROPS AND TRADE,  
E.) U.S. INTEREST IN GRAIN AND SOYBEAN TRADE WITH U.S.S.R.  
AND F.) U.S. DESIRE TO MOVE TOWARDS LONGER TERM JOINT  
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION EXCHANGES. SOVIETS

INDICATED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR LONGER TERM RESEARCH AND SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WILL BE PREPARED AT WORKING LEVELS. IN REGULAR BIENNIAL GRAIN CONSULTATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT SOVIETS PROVED MORE FORTHCOMING THAN IN PAST ON CURRENT YEAR GRAIN TRADE DATA AND TOOK CARE NOT TO PRECLUDE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES OF U.S. GRAIN ABOVE PRESENT APPROXIMATE 13 MILLION TON LEVEL. SOVIETS DID NOT PROVIDE ANY CROP ESTIMATES OR INDICATION OF POSSIBLE GRAIN REQUIREMENTS IN 1978-79.

2. WHILE NO SIGNIFICANT AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED DURING BERGLAND VISIT NONE HAD BEEN EXPECTED. NON-ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE NOT RAISED IN THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS HOSTS. PRINCIPAL GOAL OF BERGLAND'S VISIT WAS TO HELP CONTINUE GOOD OVERALL U.S.-U.S.S.R RELATIONSHIP IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND IN THIS REGARD TRIP APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.

3. IN POLAND SECRETARY BERGLAND WAS RECEIVED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN GIEREK, PRIME MINISTER JAROSEWICZ, VICE PREMIER JAGIELSKI, THE NEW POLISH HEAD OF U.S.-POLISH JOINT TRADE COMMISSION, AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE KLOKONIA. JAGIELSKI, IN HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY, STRESSED POLAND'S URGENT NEED TO OBTAIN MORE FAVORABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 140878

CREDIT TERMS FOR COMMODITY PURCHASES THAN CURRENTLY OFFERED BY CCC. POLES WOULD LIKE LOWER INTEREST RATES, GRACE PERIOD AND LONGER REPAYMENT SCHEDULE. SECRETARY BERGLAND INFORMED POLES THAT EXISTING LEGISLATION BARRED THE TYPES OF CONCESSIONS SOUGHT. WHILE LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO LENGTHEN REPAYMENT PERIOD UNDER CCC IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WILL BE APPLICABLE TO GRAIN. IN MEETING WITH GIEREK, POLISH PARTY LEADER EMPHASIZED CURRENT POLISH AGRICULTURAL DIFFICULTIES, THE NEED FOR LARGER FARM HOLDINGS AND CONTINUED RELIANCE ON PRIVATE AGRICULTURE.

4. FYI - RECENT LONDON TIMES ARTICLE SUGGESTED THAT DURING BERGLAND VISIT POLES HAD REQUESTED EXTENSION FOR REPAYMENT OF 500 MILLION DOLS. IN OUTSTANDING CCC CREDITS. THIS REPORT SIGNIFICANTLY DISTORTED APPROACH ACTUALLY MADE BY POLES. GUIDANCE ON SENSITIVE SUBJECT OF POLISH DEBT SITUATION IS BEING PREPARED IN DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES PROMPTED BY TIMES ARTICLE AND USNATO WILL BE INCLUDED ON LIST OF ADDRESSEES. CHRISTOPHER

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